

WHISKEY

A WHOLESALE DESSERTATION ON BOOZE, DAMPHOOLS AND HELLEN-DAMNATION IN GENERAL.

By A. D. HAYWORTH.

Ah, you have heard that word before, haven't you? You can just safely wager your openwork lisle hose with the pink clocks in them, that you have heard the word; and you can go still further and lay the rest of your lingerie at the stifferst unheard of odds, that you have seen the results of this concentrated essence of hell and damnation. What a word to conjure with—Whiskey! Great God in High Heaven, why was it invented and licensed by alleged sane, peace-loving human beings, except for the enormous revenues that are derived by its makers. Whiskey and its tributaries, in the forms of all other spirituous liquors, have sent more bodies to the grave and their souls to hell than all other causes combined, by a million to 1 per cent. The innocent, untold suffering existing beneath our eyes and in the shadow of our homes everywhere from the causes of liquor is unimaginable. The creature, made in the image of God, draws his weekly wages; the first place he lights for is his pet souse dump and orders his drink with a flourish that would put old Andy Car. and Johnny Rock. on the blink and make them crawl in their holes and pull their holes in after them. This booze-absorber loses track of time, home and everything that is sacred as the rot-gut is shot at him with first one fist and then the other of the strong-armed, leather-lunged, heluva-good-fellow bartender. This poor, damned fool stands at this legally-licensed before-the-wise-acres-of-the-great-United-States rot-gut dive and deludes himself into believing that he is making himself so popular that he will crowd everybody else off the earth. As he continues to convert himself at one and the same time into a perambulating distillery and sloop cart he grows in size and magnitude and grandeur and wealth till a halo appears above his head and a hollow appears in his pocket that couldn't be plugged up with a bung as big as a beer keg. But, he's a good fellow; everybody has admitted it, from the ten-dollar-a-week bartender with the glass diamond shirt-stud to the nigger scrub boy with a mouth like the blast hole in the side of a mountain. Why, it accidentally gets to the ears of the vague-possibility-of-a-gentleman who owns and operates lawfully and legally this whiskey cesspool of hell and he acknowledges most condescendingly and graciously that Mr. Damned Fool is a good fellow—a heluva-good-fellow. Why, surest thing you know, he's a good fellow—and don't forget to go through his pockets and take whatever else he may have left after you get all his money, just prior to throwing him out into the street, after soaking him with that second-hand beer mallet—don't use the new one, you know that cost 30 cents and it would be extravagance to wear it out putting knots, welts and other fresco work on Mr. D. F.'s upper story. Now, this thoughtful admonition of Mr. Booze Joint Owner to his wooden-headed, sponge-brained bartender in Mr. D. F.'s behalf shows great business tact and unparalleled acumen that could not possibly be attained or even approached in a legitimate, respectable business or profession. What a cinch; what a sight! Fool lands on his windward ear in the gutter with nineteen kinds of convex and concave ciatrices on his roof garden after the bartender has made absolutely sure to a certainty beyond the shadow of a possible doubt that the human sponge has not a penny left to take home to inflict upon a suffering wife and helpless children. Oh, isn't he a dear, thoughtful soul, this bartender? This licensed agent of the poor house, the gallows and the pauper's field; this regularly-appointed agent for sending men's and

women's souls to hell by the lightning express route. Robbing little children of their heritage, homes and parents; wrecking the lives and blasting the hopes of future generations; damning the souls of those who are so unfortunate and foolish as to breathe the atmosphere in which they exist, thrive and ply their legal traffic; striking terror to the thought and gnawing at the very root of the powerful government that legally licenses the manufacture and sale of whiskey. From whence sprang the wisdom from the breast of mortal that could advocate and force upon decent humanity the production of such a creation as whiskey and its kindred tributaries is beyond the ken of man. We claim, with much vigor and alleged pride, that we are a wonderfully highly-civilized bunch of humanity, and it looks it, don't it? when a mass of intelligent citizens will tolerate a cussed, low-lifed, murdering, villainous band of thugs to manufacture and sell whiskey or any of its cousins to a weak-headed lot of fools and imbeciles to play hell in our midst, to wreck their own homes and pauperize a nation. Why, we haven't got the sense that God gave geese or the gray matter of a slop-fed hog when it comes to operating a nation on a common-sense, humanitarian basis of taking care of our own. (Continued on 4th column)

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of the very few waxing fat on its sale to the very great masses should excite an anarchy that would rise as one mighty giant and obliterate the damned curse and its producers from the face of the earth. Whiskey has killed more men than all the wars, plagues and pestilences that ever happened and yet it is cuddled and fondled like a pet dove in the bosoms of those whom it literally eats up alive. Whiskey has claimed its own victims by the millions in the past, but its day of obliteration is coming with the fiends that make and sell it. Enough intelligence and will power of the decent people will develop in four years to send it from the District of Columbia, especially besides many other benighted sections, and you mark our words.

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